



Community-led Conservation

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Sustainable Northwest was founded in 1994 to forge collaborative solutions for conserving forest and community health. Today, our challenges have multiplied with climate change, catastrophic wildfires, and persistent drought harming our region. Yet we remain optimistic that nature, people, and local economies can thrive together.

Learn more at sustainablenorthwest.org



FORESTS



Credit: Sustainable NW. Ponderosa pine forest in central Washington after restoration, including thinning smaller trees and prescribed burning.

Our forest team works across all forest ownerships – public, private, nonprofit, and Tribal – to develop nature-based solutions for healthy forests that support nature, people, and local economies.

For example, we are helping landowners affected by the 2020 Labor Day Fires reforest using climate-resilient practices.

What we are going to cover

1 When to Consider Land Conservation

2 What Land Conservation Looks Like

3 Planning and Funding

4 Long-Term Management Approaches & Requirements

Community-Led



Conservation Movements:

- You are the local champion.
- Turn it into a community movement.

Engaging outside partners

- Land Trusts
- Watershed Councils
- Soil and Water Conservation Districts
- State Agencies
 - ODF, ODFW, DEQ
- Land Users
- Current Landowner



When to Consider Land Conservation



Identified area of interest:

- Priority Parcel
- Potential for Conversion.
- Potential for Input.

Community-Led:

- Buy-in from Local Leadership.
- Local Capacity.

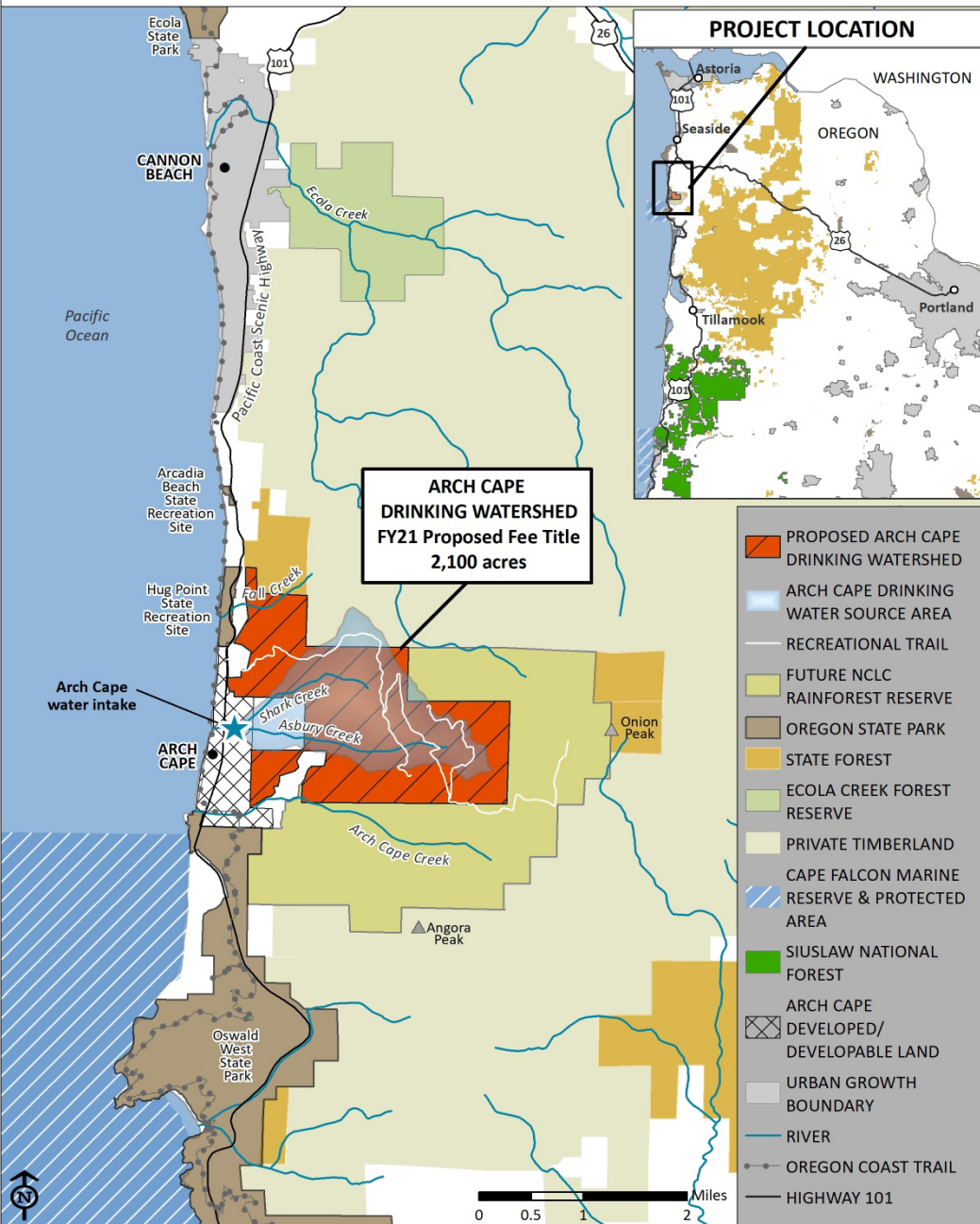
Potential Conservation Approaches:

- Acquisition
- Management Agreement
- Conservation Easement
- Land Swap



ARCH CAPE DRINKING WATERSHED

FY 2021 Forest Legacy Proposal



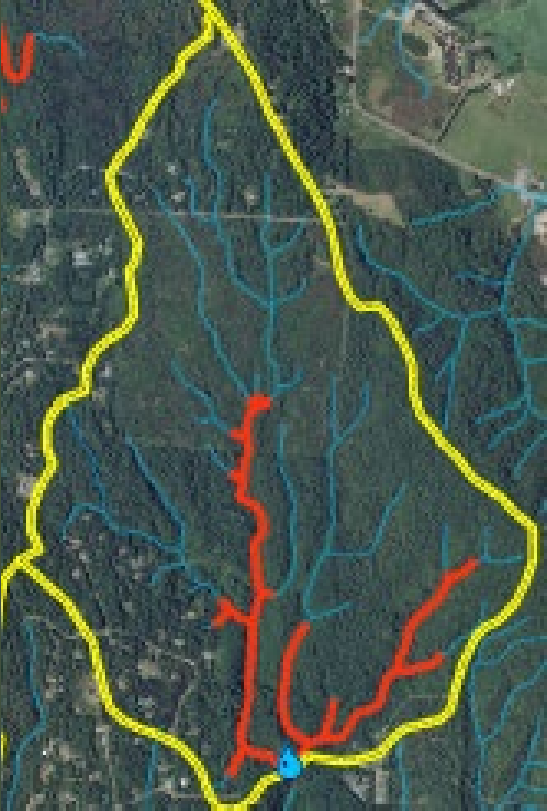
Land Acquisition

Arch Cape Community Forest

Arch Cape Water District Produced a Watershed Protection Plan in 2015

- **Arch Cape Water District** Partnered with NCLC and SNW in 2017 to pursue Watershed Acquisition effort.
- **Community process included:**
 - Community engagement
 - Watershed plan design
 - Forest management plan design
 - Fundraising for acquisition fundraising – Forest Legacy
 - Connection to legal counsel and acquisition resources
 - Initial management planning.
- Acquisition Effort spanned from 2017 – 2023.

Port Orford – Hubbard Creek



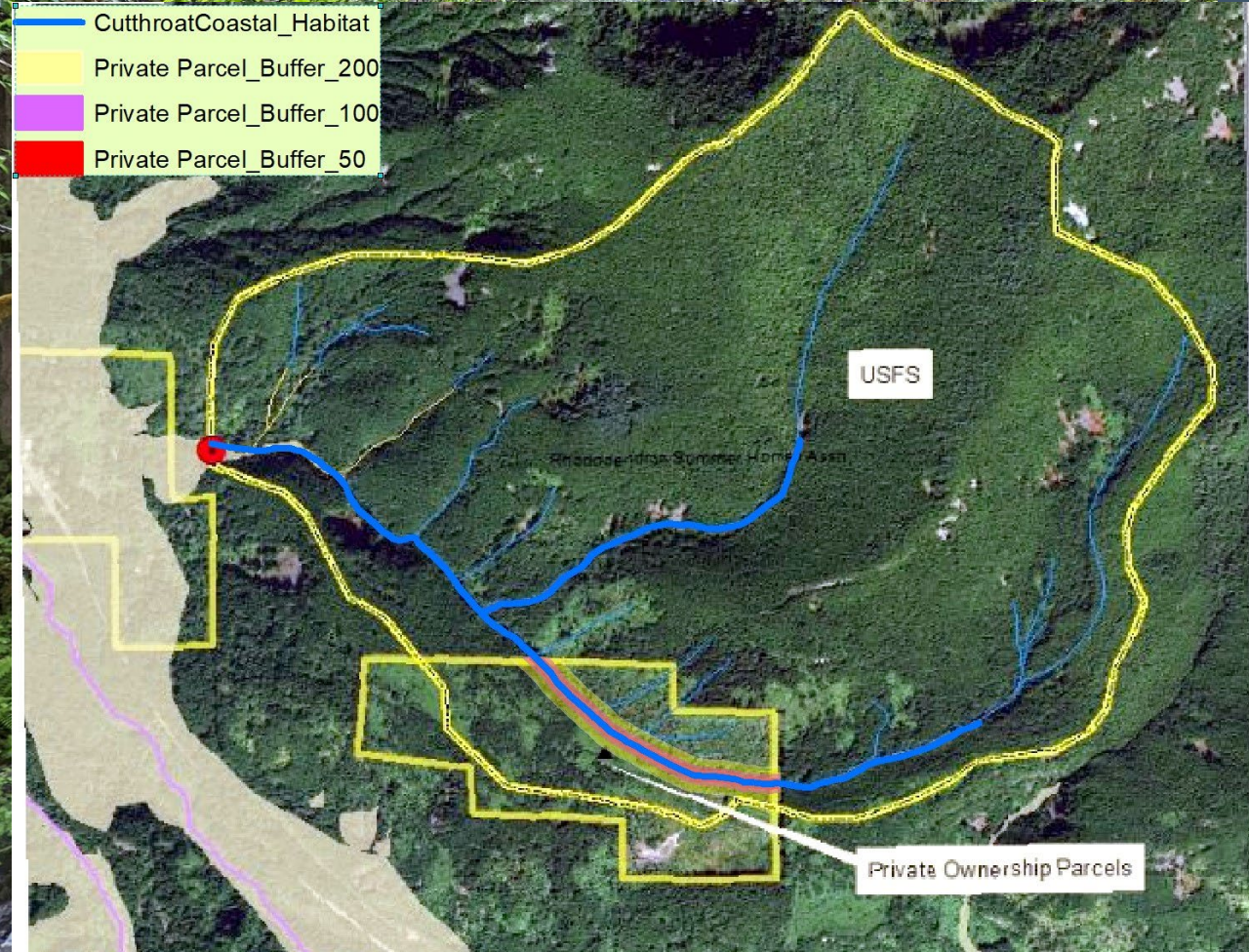
Hubbard Creek Watershed – Port Orford Source Water Supply

Success through an Interim Landowner to ensure intact forest remains within watershed following increased forest management activity within & adjacent to the watershed.

Goal of the property:

- Increase City Ownership within the Watershed
- Protect the supply of drinking water to city residents & “use the forest as a sponge”.
- Reduce rates of turbidity within watershed.
- Supported by The Conservation Fund through interim ownership.
- 160 additional acres of City Ownership in the Hubbard Creek Watershed.

Rhododendron Water District



Identified a risk of harvest within Rhododendron's Watershed.

Engaged with landowners to establish an agreement to increase buffers along Henry Creek.

Established Riparian Management Agreement, similar in nature to a Conservation Easement.

"Acquired" the right to exclude harvest within 300-ft of Henry Creek throughout the identified 42-acres over the coming 50 years.

Cost to Rhododendron Water District of \$175,000.

Photo: Rhododendron, Eugene Hogan

Conservation Easement

Conservation Easements:

- A lower cost tool to adjust management practices.
- Requires a long-term relationship with the Landowner.
- Commonly exist in perpetuity.
- Require continued monitoring.
- Cost is typically the difference in revenue between status quo management activities and proposed management activities.



Photo: Benjamin Hugget, Coastal Forest

Cape Meares Community Forest



Wetlands/Land Map

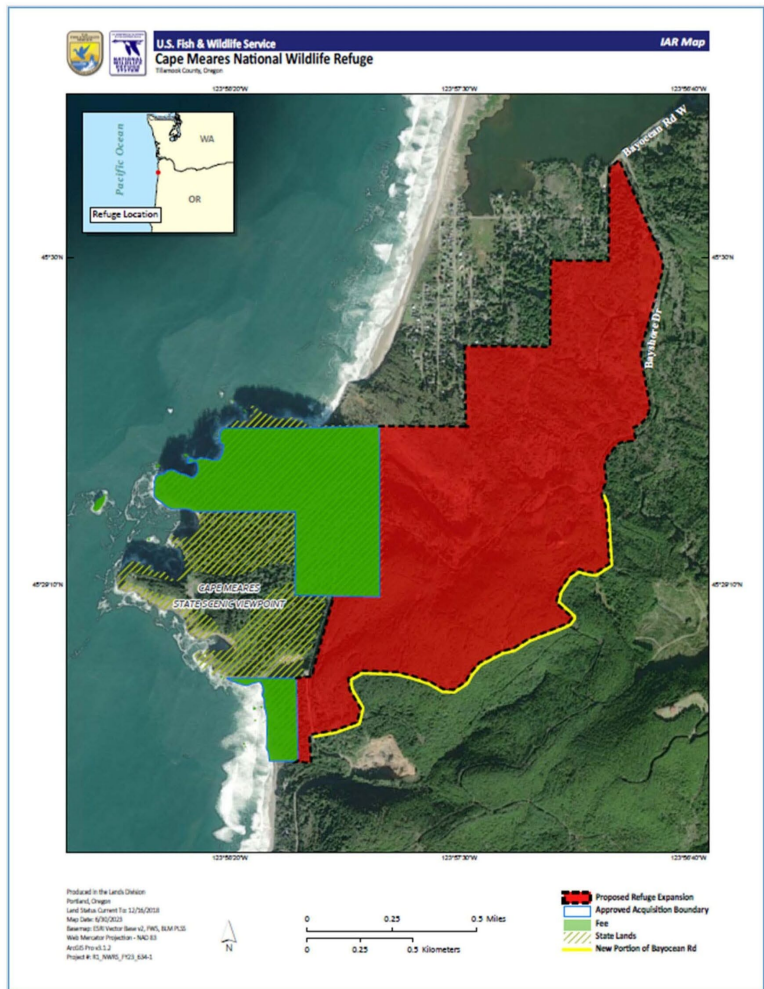


Figure 1. Proposed acquisition boundary expansion area (red area totaling approximately 470 acres) in relation to the existing Cape Meares NWR parcels (green area) and the State-owned Cape Meares Scenic Viewpoint. The new alignment of Bayshore Drive (yellow line) provides a logical man-made boundary for the proposed AAB.

Leveraging Local Ownership – Cape Meares Community

- Owned a 106-Acre Community Forest
- Identified an at-risk property of 120-acres in their watershed.
- Leveraged neighboring Cape Meares National Wildlife Refuge to incorporate current property and target property.
- Possible through support of The Conservation Fund among the numerous partners.

Funding the efforts

Federal Funds:

EPA Opportunities – DLDC facilitates in Oregon

Forest Service Opportunities:

- Forest Legacy
- Community Forestry

State Funds:

OWEB Opportunities:

- Long-Standing Land Acquisition Program
- New Source Water Protection Grant

Non State/ Federal Funds:

- Individual Donations
- Foundation Giving

- County Allocations
- City Bond Measures.
- Water Districts Loans, Ect.

Value from Co-Benefits:

- Water Quality & Availability
- Carbon Sequestration
- Forest Management
- Ecological Health & Wildlife Habitat
- Access and Community Use

How to Identify and Value Co-Benefits



Communities often prioritize co-benefits when acquiring potential working lands.

Community Engagement “What do we want from this effort”:

- Water Quality & Quantity
- Keeping Intact Forest
- Supporting Habitat for Wildlife
- Increasing or Maintaining Public Access
- Revenue Generation to Support Management Costs & City Projects.



Appraisal will give a market value.

Due Diligence Requirements



Resource Stewardship Plans

Land Appraisals:

- Value of the land.
- Value of the standing timber.

Mineral Rights

Water Rights

Identifying Deed Requirements and Deed Restrictions.

Contracting and Price Negotiation



Natural Resource Management Planning

- Identify long-term goal.
- Identify Available Resources.
- Identify who is a part of the decision-making team.
- Identify requirements based on current or future funding.

Long-Term Management Costs



Photo: Astoria Bear Creek Forest

Ownership Expenses and Requirements:

- Costs money to ensure a healthy forest & watershed.
- Higher up-front cost depending on goals & site conditions.

Conservation Easement Expenses and Requirements:

- Monitoring costs should be considered.

Ensure there's capacity to support long-term management expenses:

- Different management costs exist based on different management goals.



Photo: Arch Cape Community Forest

What Do You Need From This Effort

- **What are your Long-Term Goals?**
- **Where is your effort focused?**
- **Who needs to be engaged to ensure the “sustainability” of this effort?**
- **What is the best solution to achieve your goal?**
 - What are the steps you need to pursue to get there?

Wallowa East Moraine Community Forest



Thank you!

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